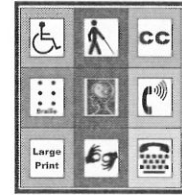




Office on the Disabled  
City of Saint Louis  
Advisory Council Meeting  
Room 305, City Hall  
February 27, 2012



### Minutes

Gina Hilberry as Council Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Members present included Gina Hilberry, Mike Keller, Kerri Morgan, William Sheldon, and Linda Baker. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner of the Office on the Disabled were also present. Absent were Willie Kimbrough, Wendy Sullivan and Jane Thomas.

Minutes from the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

### Regional Independent Living Center (RILC) Update

Commissioner Newburger reported that in 2010 a survey had been made of participants at the independent living centers in the region and who use services of the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging about participant's preparedness for emergencies. As a general matter the findings suggested that people who had trainings at the Independent Living Centers had developed emergency preparedness plans but had not followed up or implemented them while SLAA few SLAA participants had emergency plans but of those who did, they were more likely to follow up on implementation – probably in some or most cases because the prepared participants had experienced an emergency.

Since then, the Disaster Human Services committee of STARRS became secured a \$100,000 grant from Homeland Security grant money and spent it last year on a public communications project performed by Fleishman Hillard.

Now we have a grant to develop emergency preparedness oriented toward people with disabilities. It totals \$200,000 over for a 2-year period and likely will be operated again by Fleishman Hillard. Independently, and at little cost, the Red Cross has agreed to develop a training program specifically geared toward people with disabilities.

The training documents were circulated to the Council with the invitation to comment.

On a related matter, the RILC Group has secured a study of how various Emergency Management Agencies in the region have addressed the needs of people with disabilities in their Emergency Operations Plans. They are following up to encourage greater attention to those issues.

Also on a related matter, the Red Cross has asked Commissioner Newburger how to develop trainings for their mass sheltering volunteers in the hopes of making their shelters more accessible. FEMA recently stated that shelters have to be fully integrated. The Red Cross is approaching Paraquod to handle the training because Paraquod has organized such trainings in the past. If this does not work out, then Commissioner Newburger may approach the Advisory Council to volunteer in this capacity.

Mr. Sheldon mentioned that it would be good for first responders to know basic sign language to help them more successfully work with citizens who are deaf. Commissioner Newburger commented that some fire department policies about working with people with disabilities need to be addressed. It was also commented on that there exists a laminated sheet that has basic signs utilized by the fire/EMS/police departments.

Commissioner Newburger will also be contacting Jacqueline Lukitsch, Advocacy Director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) to touch base with her on emergency preparedness issues regarding individuals with mental illness.

### **Sidewalk Report—Permits From Street Department**

Advisory members reviewed a report with an additional eleven properties highlighting the cross slope and carriage walk measurements of newly poured concrete. Commissioner Newburger explained that 2% is the maximum cross slope that should be seen in this report. Unfortunately, there are much higher percentages than 2%. Ms. Hilberry assessed the report and noted that there are some wildly variable percentages. She also, gave an overview of why more than a 2% angle on a cross slope is very difficult for someone with a disability to maneuver. Ms. Morgan wanted to know if this new concrete made the sidewalk better or what the exact purpose was since there was so much variation between the new concrete they poured and what they did not repair.

### **Permeable Concrete Video at MO Botanical Gardens**

Video was shown of the permeable concrete project at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Commissioner Newburger will caption future videos. He would like the advisory council to see it again when it is more polished. Overall, the video was

received very well by the advisory council members. Commissioner Newburger also mentioned that he will submit the video to "green" organizations for review.

### **To Do List From Previous Meetings**

Ordinance modification will be put on the next meetings agenda (including further discussion of new name for office and council).

Continue discussion of finding grant money to assist "mom & pop" establishments with purpose of increasing their accessibility.

Continue on next agenda finding examples of problem sidewalks so they may be evaluated in bulk rather than individually.

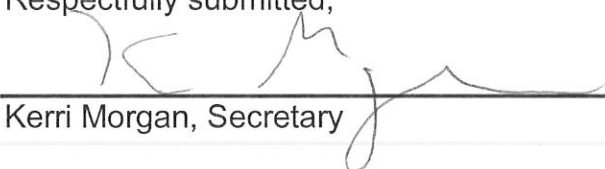
### **New Business**

Per Ms. Baker, the County Commission ADA Coordinator meeting is being organized to discuss the Joplin experience for emergency preparedness and she invited Commissioner Newburger to attend.

It was decided that the advisory council will attempt to use Doodle.com to schedule the upcoming April meeting. The Office on the Disabled will create the message and send it out to advisory members. Since we are unsure how well Doodle works with screen readers, this will be an experiment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kerri Morgan, Secretary